

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk for use in perpendicular magnetic recording, said perpendicular magnetic recording disk characterized by comprising a substrate, a soft magnetic layer on said substrate, a ferromagnetic layer ~~formed~~ on said substrate soft magnetic layer, having a granular structure, and ~~containing~~ comprising crystal grains mainly made of cobalt (Co) and grain boundary portions mainly made of an oxide, silicon (Si), or an oxide of silicon (Si), and a stacked layer ~~formed~~ on said ferromagnetic layer and having a first layer ~~containing~~ comprising cobalt (Co) or a Co alloy and a second layer ~~containing~~ comprising palladium (Pd) or platinum (Pt).

2. (canceled).

3. (previously presented) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk according to claim 1, characterized in that the content of the silicon (Si) in said ferromagnetic layer is 6at% or more.

4. (previously presented) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk according to claim 1, characterized in that the content of the silicon (Si) in said ferromagnetic layer is 8at% to 15at%.

5. (previously presented) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk according to claim 1, characterized in that a spacer layer is provided between said ferromagnetic layer and said stacked layer.

6. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a perpendicular magnetic recording disk for use in perpendicular magnetic recording and having at least a soft magnetic layer on a substrate and a magnetic recording layer on ~~a substrate~~ said soft magnetic layer, said method characterized by,

in a step of forming said magnetic recording layer comprising, on said ~~substrate~~ soft magnetic layer, a ferromagnetic layer of a granular structure ~~containing~~ comprising silicon (Si) or an oxide of silicon (Si) between crystal grains ~~containing~~ comprising cobalt (Co) and a stacked layer having a first layer ~~containing~~ comprising Co or a Co alloy and a second layer

~~containing~~ comprising palladium (Pd) or platinum (Pt), forming said ferromagnetic layer on said substrate soft magnetic layer by sputtering in an argon gas atmosphere and then forming said stacked layer by sputtering in an argon gas atmosphere at a gas pressure lower than a gas pressure used when forming said ferromagnetic layer.

7. - 8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk according to claim 2 3, characterized in that a spacer layer is provided between said ferromagnetic layer and said stacked layer.